

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

clean water act — south carolina state revolving fund

PROJECT: Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority
South Wastewater Transmission System Upgrade
Horry County

This Department, under Section 48-5-40 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, has the authority and responsibility to conduct environmental reviews and approve wastewater preliminary engineering reports (PER) prepared for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program. Our review has determined that implementation of the plan identified below will not cause a significant environmental impact and the Department hereby issues this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI).

This FNSI precedes approval of the PER entitled "Preliminary Engineering Report South Wastewater Transmission System Upgrade" dated December 2017 and Revised May 7, 2018. The plan recommends the installation of a new sewer force main and pump station. Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority (GSWSA) will implement the project. The following Environmental Assessment summarizes the environmental effects of the proposed project.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Need for New Facilities: GSWSA owns and operates the sewer collection system and wastewater treatment facility that serves the southern portion of Horry County, including the Town of Surfside Beach, Garden City Beach and the surrounding unincorporated area. Because this area of Horry County is extremely flat, wastewater pump stations are required to transport wastewater through the collection system. In addition to the wastewater pump stations in most neighborhoods, there is a system of regional wastewater booster pump stations that serve as collection points for certain areas of the system and then pump it through a larger transmission line to the Schwartz Wastewater Treatment Plant. The system of small neighborhood wastewater pump stations and large regional booster pump stations all utilize the same force main network to carry the wastewater to the treatment plant. Some of these force mains are reaching the point where the length of line and volume of flow cause the pumps to "dead head" which means the pumps are unable to overcome the pressure in the receiving force main. Once the volume of wastewater in the receiving force main is reduced, the pumps can then deliver the necessary head to exceed the force main pressure and discharge into the line.

Proposed Facilities: The attached figure from the referenced PER by DDC Engineers shows the proposed project location. The proposed project comprises of the installation of approximately 20,765 linear feet of 36-inch force main and a wastewater booster pump station. The proposed force main is to be installed along Highway 17 Bypass from Highway 544 southbound to Sutter Drive and then to Highway 707 near the intersection of Buddy Lane. The estimated total capital cost for this project is \$11,525,000. The proposed project is consistent with the Waccamaw Regional Planning Council's 208 Water Quality Management Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

No long-term environmental impacts should result from the proposed activities. Implementation of the proposed project is not expected to violate any of the environmental crosscutting authorities that apply to projects receiving Federal assistance. The following crosscutting authorities were considered before arriving at this conclusion: important farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, floodplains, archaeological or historical sites, threatened or endangered species, national natural landmarks, sensitive coastal zone resources, and impaired air quality. Although wetlands and floodplains occur in the planning area, the proposed project will be designed to result in minimal impacts to these wetlands and floodplains consistent with any needed 404 permits by the Corps of Engineers (e.g., preconstruction contours will be restored). Short-term, minor disturbances associated with construction - such as traffic interference, noise, dust, vegetation loss, erosion and sedimentation - will be minimized through the use of best-management construction practices.

COMMENTS

Comments in support or disagreement received within 30 days of the date of this FNSI will be evaluated before approval of the preliminary engineering report. If you wish to comment, please contact Chuck Gorman at gormancm@dhec.sc.gov or write to:

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Date: 3/9/18
County: Horry

Scale: 1"= 2,000'
Job No.: 16060E



Figure: 2